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TITLE: SUBJECT: SITREP: AFTERMATH OF THE MURDER OF U.P.

- PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE BERNARDO JARAMILLO

ORIGDATE: 199003230034

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: BOGOTA 04435

TEXT:

TAGS: PGOV, PINR, CO

SUBJECT: SITREP: AFTERMATH OF THE MURDER OF U.P.

- PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE BERNARDO JARAMILLO

REF: A) BOGOTA 4350, B) BOGOTA 4341

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA  
PERS/ORG

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: THE GOC'S NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL HAS CHARGED THAT NOTORIOUS NARCO TRAFFICKER PABLO ESCOBAR WAS BEHIND THE KILLING OF PATRIOTIC UNION LEADER BERNARDO JARAMILLO. THE EMBASSY ALSO HAS INTELLEGNECE SUGGESTING THAT THE MEDELLIN CARTEL WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER. THE CARTEL HAS BEEN UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM THE GOC, AND ALMOST CERTAINLY ORDERED JARAMILLO'S DEATH IN AN ATTEMPT TO DIVERT THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION FROM ITS ANTI-NARCO CAMPAIGN AND TO SHOW THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO PROTECT EVEN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES. DEMONSTRATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN COLOMBIA, BUT MOST ARE NOT VIOLENT.

3. THE U.P. HAS CHARGED THAT MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT CARLOS LEMOS SIMMONDS BEARS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR JARAMILLO'S KILLING, AND HAS DEMANDED HIS REMOVAL FROM OFFICE. PARTY LEADERS ASSERT THAT THE MINGOV'S RECENT REMARKS LINKING THE U.P. TO THE FARC GUERRILLAS WERE TAKEN AS A "GREEN LIGHT" BY THE U.P.'S ENEMIES TO LAUNCH ATTACKS ON THE GROUP. SEVERAL PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BROKEN OUT IN COLOMBIA IN REACTION TO JARAMILLO'S MURDER. THESE DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST AMERICANS SO FAR. END SUMMARY.

MEDELLIN CARTEL BEHIND JARAMILLO'S MURDER

REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior  
Reviewer

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4. INTELLIGENCE RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY INDICATES THAT THE MEDELLIN CARTEL WAS BEHIND THE MARCH 22 ASSASSINATION OF THE PATRIOTIC UNION (U.P.)'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE BERNARDO JARAMILLO OSSA IN BOGOTA'S ELDORADO AIRPORT. THE GOC'S NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE IN LATE AFTERNOON STATING THAT THE GUNMAN WHO KILLED JARAMILLO CONFESSED TO RECEIVING DEPENDING ON THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION EITHER USD 300,000 OR PESOS 300,000 AS A DOWNPAYMENT FROM PABLO ESCOBAR TO CARRY OUT THE ACT. (COMMENT: WE TEND TO BELIEVE FORMER FIGURE.) THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL CATEGORICALLY CHARGES ESCOBAR GAVIRIA WITH ORDERING THE ASSASSINATION OF JARAMILLO OSSA. THE STATEMENT MENTIONED THAT ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE ON THE MEDELLIN CARTEL YIELDED A CONVERSATION IN WHICH ESCOBAR ORDERED A THIRD PARTY TO PAY THE MONEY.

5. LATE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 22 RADIO CARACOL ANNOUNCED THAT THE "RODRIGUEZ GACHA COMMANDO" OF THE MEDELLIN CARTEL HAD CLAIMED AUTHORSHIP OF THE ASSASSINATION. AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST TOLD USIS OFFICER THAT HE HAD HEARD A RECORDING OF A TELEPHONE CALL TO A COLOMBIAN RADIO STATION WHICH THREATENED THAT LIBERAL PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CESAR GAVIRIA WOULD BE THE NEXT TARGET; THE CALLER CLAIMED THAT AN ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE GAVIRIA WHEN HE RETURNED FROM THE U.S. MARCH 20 HAD NARROWLY MISSED. THE AMERICAN JOURNALIST CONFIRMED THAT THE CALLER SAID THAT HOSTILITIES HAD RESUMED BECAUSE PRESIDENT BARCO HAD NOT RESPONDED TO THE CARTELS' PEACE INITIATIVES, AND VIOLENCE WOULD CONTINUE MARCH 23 AGAINST GOVERNMENT AND "LEFTIST" FACILITIES. USG INTERESTS WERE NOT MENTIONED. IT HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED THAT THE CALLER WAS SPEAKING FOR THE MEDELLIN CARTEL.

6. THE MEDELLIN CARTEL HAS BEEN UNDER GREAT PRESSURE LATELY FROM THE GOC'S ANTI-NARCO CAMPAIGN, AND HAS BEEN FRUSTRATED BY PRESIDENT BARCO'S FAILURE TO ACCEPT ITS OFFER TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT. ESCOBAR MAY HAVE DECIDED TO KILL JARAMILLO AS A WAY OF DIVERTING ATTENTION FROM THE DRUG WAR AND CREATING DISCORD IN THE GOC (A TACTIC THE NARCO KINGPINS HAVE USED IN THE PAST). CLEARLY

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ESCOBAR IS REACTING TO THE PRESSURE HE IS UNDER FROM THE POLICE'S MANHUNT AND THE LIBERAL PARTY CHOICE OF CESAR GAVIRIA AS ITS CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT. GAVIRIA, WHO IS THE EARLY FAVORITE TO CAPTURE THE PRESIDENCY, HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN A TOUGH STANCE AGAINST THE NARCO CARTELS AND ESCOBAR MAY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT A STRATEGY OF PEACE IS NOT VIABLE. NARCO VIOLENCE AGAINST THE GOC MAY INDEED RESUME AND GAVIRIA IS A LOGICAL PRINCIPLE TARGET.

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 03 BOGOTA 04435

DEPT. FOR ARA/AND

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

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U.P. BLAMES MINGOV

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6. A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF THE PATRIOTIC UNION (U.P.) PRIOR TO THE REVELATIONS OF PABLO ESCOBAR'S ROLE IN THE ASSASSINATION PLACED MORAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR JARAMILLO'S MURDER ON MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT CARLOS LEMOS SIMMONDS AND CALLED ON PRESIDENT BARCO TO FIRE HIM. THE U.P. LEADERSHIP AND THE MINGOV HAVE BEEN CARRYING ON A WAR OF WORDS FOR THE PAST WEEK, WITH LEMOS ACCUSING THE U.P. OF MAINTAINING LINKS TO THE FARC GUERRILLA GROUP. U.P. PRESIDENT DIEGO MONTANA VEHEMENTLY REJECTED LEMOS' ACCUSATIONS AND CHARGED THAT THE MINGOV'S STATEMENTS "WOULD CAUSE MANY DEATHS" BECAUSE THEY WOULD ENCOURAGE THE U.P.'S ENEMIES TO LAUNCH MORE ATTACKS ON THE PARTY.

7. THE U.P. HAS FREQUENTLY COMPLAINED IN THE PAST THAT THE GOC WAS NOT PROVIDING SUFFICIENT SECURITY GUARANTEES FOR ITS POLITICAL CANDIDATES, AND HAD ASKED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO INVESTIGATE LEMOS' CONDUCT THE DAY BEFORE JARAMILLO WAS KILLED. THE PARTY ITSELF, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN LAX ABOUT SECURITY MATTERS. POLOFFS AND JOURNALISTS HAVE

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BEEN ABLE TO WALK INTO THE U.P. HEADQUARTERS AT WILL, WITHOUT BEING SEARCHED, EVEN WHEN JARAMILLO WAS IN THE BUILDING.

## PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS

8. A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION BY ABOUT 800 TO 1000 YOUNG PEOPLE WHICH POLICE SAY WERE STUDENTS PASSED QUICKLY BY THE EMBASSY SHORTLY AFTER NOON. THEY WERE CHANTING "IT'S THE GOVERNMENT'S FAULT." ONE DEMONSTRATOR PAINTED "YANKEE ASSASSINS, YANKEE THIEVES" ON THE WALL OF A BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE EMBASSY. BY THE TIME THE DEMONSTRATORS GOT NEAR THE PLAZA BOLIVAR, ABOUT 28 BLOCKS SOUTH OF THE EMBASSY, A POLITICAL OFFICER ON THE SCENE OBSERVED THAT THE CROWD HAD DWINDLED TO ABOUT 300-400. THE DEMONSTRATION APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN HASTILY ORGANIZED AND PARTICIPANTS CARRIED NO PLACARDS. MANY HAD BOOKS IN HAND. TWO MIDDLE AGED PERSONS WHO APPEARED TO BE ORGANIZERS OF THE MARCH TRIED TO HAVE THE CROWD BYPASS POLICE BARRIERS IN AN ATTEMPT TO REACH THE PLAZA. THE POLICE FIRED TEAR GAS GRENADES AND THE CROWD DISPERSED. A SMALL GROUP REMAINS NEAR THE CAPITAL BUILDING WHERE THE BODY OF JARAMILLO IS LYING IN STATE UNTIL BURIAL SATURDAY IN MANIZALES.

9. POLICE HAVE REPORTED OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS. A LARGE BUT SO FAR PEACEFUL CROWD HAS GATHERED OUTSIDE THE U.P.'S NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN CENTRAL BOGOTA (25 BLOCKS FROM THE EMBASSY). ANOTHER PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION IS TAKING PLACE IN THE SOUTH BOGOTA NEIGHBORHOOD OF POLICARPA SALAVARRIETA. HOWEVER, IN SOACHA, A SOUTHERN SUBURB OF BOGOTA WHERE GALAN WAS KILLED IN AUGUST 1989 THERE IS A LARGE, UNRULY CROWD THROWING ROCKS. THE POLICE FEAR THAT THIS DEMONSTRATION COULD GET VIOLENT. DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE ALSO OCCURRED IN OTHER COLOMBIAN CITIES. U.P. SYMPATHIZERS PEACEFULLY OCCUPIED CITY HALLS IN PASTO (NARINO) AND PALMIRA (VALLE), AS WELL AS THE DEPARTMENT GOVERNOR'S OFFICE (GOBERNACION) IN MEDELLIN TO PROTEST JARAMILLO'S MURDER.

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COMMENT AND OUTLOOK

10. IRONICALLY, MINGOV LEMOS SIMMONDS, INITIALLY THE TARGET OF THE U.P.'S WRATH, IS ONE OF THE STRONGEST ADVOCATES OF A TOUGH LINE AGAINST THE NARCOS. HE IS CURRENTLY BEING VILIFIED BY U.P. LEADERS AND SUPPORTERS IN THE MEDIA. IF DIVERTING THE GOC'S ATTENTION FROM THE DRUG WAR WAS THE MEDELLIN CARTEL'S MOTIVE FOR KILLING JARAMILLO, ITS TACTICS MAY BACKFIRE. NOW THAT THE HAND OF ESCOBAR IS EVIDENT, PUBLIC REVULSION AT THE ASSASSINATION OF YET ANOTHER POLITICAL FIGURE MAY ONLY HARDEN THE GOC'S DETERMINATION TO DESTROY THE CARTEL AT ANY COST.

11. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ONE IN SOACHA, DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE SO FAR BEEN PEACEFUL, AND NONE HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST AMERICANS. WE CANNOT BE SURE THAT THIS WILL CONTINUE WHILE JARAMILLO'S BODY LIES IN STATE IN THE SENATE OR DURING HIS FUNERAL SERVICE, WHICH IS

S E C R E T SECTION 03 OF 03 BOGOTA 04435

DEPT. FOR ARA/AND

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PGOV, PINR, CO

SUBJECT: SITREP: AFTERMATH OF THE MURDER OF U.P.

SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 24. U.P. PRESIDENT MONTANA

HAS CALLED FOR CALM, AND U.P. SENATOR ALBERTO ROJAS PUYO

TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE PARTY "DID NOT WANT TO ANSWER

VIOLENCE WITH VIOLENCE." OTHER U.P. SUPPORTERS, OUTRAGED

BY THE MURDER OF THEIR DYNAMIC YOUNG LEADER, MAY NOT BE SO

RESTRAINED. MCNAMARA

END OF MESSAGE

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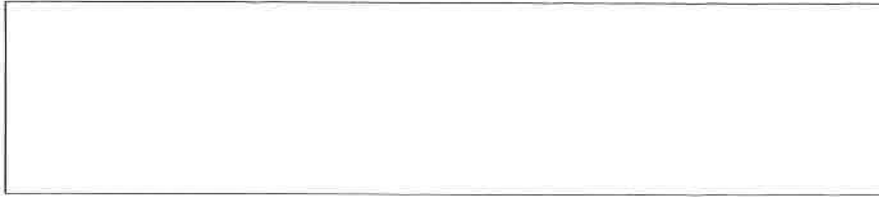
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TOR: 230037Z MAR 90 BOGOTA 04435

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CONTROLS: S E C R E T BOGOTA 04435 DEPT. FOR ARA/AND SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD E.O. 12356:

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DOR: 19900322

FROM: FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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<FROM>FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA</FROM>

<TO>TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3996</TO>

INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 6760

RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN

RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

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TO: TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3996

TOR: 194216

XREFS: REF: A) BOGOTA 4350, B) BOGOTA 4341

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